

REMARKS

This is in full and timely response to the Office Action dated April 26, 2004. Reexamination in light of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-2, 4-5 and 7-16 are currently pending in this application, with claims 1-2, 4-5 being independent. No new matter has been added.

Priority

It is noted with appreciation that the Office Action has acknowledged receipt of the claim for priority and the certified document supporting that claim.

Claim objections

In response to the objection of the claims, while not conceding the propriety of this objection and in order to advance the prosecution of the above-identified application, claims 1-2 and 4-5 have been amended, and claims 3 and 6 canceled.

Withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102 and §103

Claims 1-2 and 4-5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,281,701 to Ross.

These rejections are traversed at least for the following reasons.

Claim 1 and the claims dependent thereon include the features of :

a run-flat support member constituted of a circular shell within a cavity of a pneumatic tire, the circular shell having a pair of leg portions attached to a support surface, the support surface extending in a tire circumferential direction and contacting a pair of beads; and

a pair of stages in the tire circumferential direction protruding from the pair of beads, a leg portion of the pair of leg portions flanking an edge of the support surface, the leg portion contacting a bead of the pair of beads and a stage of said pair of stages,

wherein the stage contacts the bead to form a corner, the corner receiving the leg portion.

Ross arguably teaches a vehicle tire having run flat insert having an outer ring member 1, support braces 2, flexible non-extensible bead wires 4, beads 6, and recesses 7 formed in the tire beads (figure 2).

Nevertheless, the outer ring member 1 extending in a tire circumferential direction and contacting a pair of beads 6 are absent from within Ross. Thus, Ross fails to disclose, teach or suggest a support surface extending in a tire circumferential direction and contacts a pair of beads.

Claim 2 and the claims dependent thereon include the features of :

a run-flat support member constituted of a circular shell and a pair of elastic rings within a cavity of a pneumatic tire, the circular shell having a support surface extending in a tire circumferential direction and having a pair of leg portions attached to the support surface; and

a pair of stages in the tire circumferential direction protruding from a pair of beads, an elastic ring of the pair of elastic rings having a first face in contact with a leg portion of the pair of leg portions and having a second face opposite the first face in contact with a stage of the pair of stages,

wherein the stage contacts a bead of the pair of beads to form a corner, the corner receiving the elastic ring.

Ross arguably teaches a vehicle tire having run flat insert having an outer ring member 1, support braces 2, flexible non-extensible bead wires 4, beads 6, and recesses 7 formed in the tire beads (figure 2).

However, Ross fails to disclose, teach or suggest flexible non-extensible bead wires 4 having a first face and a second face. Thus, Ross fails to disclose, teach or suggest an elastic ring of the pair of elastic rings having a first face in contact with a leg portion of the pair of leg portions and having a second face opposite the first face in contact with a stage of the pair of stages.

Claim 4 and the claims dependent thereon include the features of :

a run-flat support member constituted of a circular shell within a cavity of a pneumatic tire, the circular shell having a pair of leg portions attached to a support surface, the support surface extending in a tire circumferential direction and contacting a pair of beads; and

a pair of stages in the tire circumferential direction protruding from the pair of beads, a leg portion of the pair of leg portions flanking an edge of the support surface, the leg portion contacting a bead of the pair of beads and a stage of said pair of stages,

wherein the stage contacts the bead to form a corner, the corner receiving the leg portion.

Ross arguably teaches a vehicle tire having run flat insert having an outer ring member 1, support braces 2, flexible non-extensible bead wires 4, beads 6, and recesses 7 formed in the tire beads (figure 2).

Nevertheless, the outer ring member 1 extending in a tire circumferential direction and contacting a pair of beads 6 are absent from within Ross. Thus, Ross fails to disclose, teach or suggest a support surface extending in a tire circumferential direction and contacting a pair of beads.

Claim 5 and the claims dependent thereon include the features of :

a run-flat support member constituted of a circular shell and a pair of elastic rings within a cavity of a pneumatic tire, the circular shell having a support surface

extending in a tire circumferential direction and having a pair of leg portions attached to the support surface; and

a pair of stages in the tire circumferential direction protruding from a pair of beads, an elastic ring of the pair of elastic rings having a first face in contact with a leg portion of the pair of leg portions and having a second face opposite the first face in contact with a stage of the pair of stages,

wherein the stage contacts a bead of the pair of beads to form a corner, the corner receiving the elastic ring.

Ross arguably teaches a vehicle tire having run flat insert having an outer ring member 1, support braces 2, flexible non-extensible bead wires 4, beads 6, and recesses 7 formed in the tire beads (figure 2).

However, Ross fails to disclose, teach or suggest flexible non-extensible bead wires 4 having a first face and a second face. Thus, Ross fails to disclose, teach or suggest an elastic ring of the pair of elastic rings having a first face in contact with a leg portion of the pair of leg portions and having a second face opposite the first face in contact with a stage of the pair of stages.

Withdrawal of this rejection and allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

Claim 3 and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as allegedly being obvious over Ross in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,311,752 to Hojo et al. (Hojo).

These rejections are traversed at least for the following reasons.

While not conceding the propriety of these rejections, and in order to further the prosecution of the application, claims 3 and 6 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of their underlying subject matter, rendering the rejection moot as to these claims.

Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, all the claims now pending in the present application are allowable, and the present application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, favorable reexamination and reconsideration of the application in light of the amendments and remarks is courteously solicited.

If the Examiner has any comments or suggestions that could place this application in even better form, the Examiner is requested to telephone Brian K. Dutton, Reg. No. 47,255, at 202-955-8753.

If any fee is required or any overpayment made, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the fee or credit the overpayment to Deposit Account # 18-0013.

Dated: August 18, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

By _____

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